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ABSTRACT

Strategies counselors can use to involve "significant others" (persons who have an important influence on the career plans of students, e.g., parents, peers, and relatives) in high school career guidance programs are offered in this handbook. Content is presented in three main sections: (1) a brief, nontechnical section summarizing how significant others outside the school help to influence students career plans; emphasis is also on the overall societal context within which the process of significant others influence operates: (2) discussions of strategies that school personnel may use to incorporate significant others into the career guidance program, e.g., methods for identifying individual students! significant others, and suggestions for using communication media for. involving significant others in career planning; and (3) an outline of the elements that may be included in a student career planning file, such as aptitudes and interests inventories, employment opportunities, and preparation requirements. An annotated list of resource materials and an open-ended attitudinal questionnaire (concerning the student's feelings about career plans) are appended.

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INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT OTHERS IN CAREER PLANNING:
A COUNSELOR'S HANDBOOK

Carolyn Burkhardt Sandra R. Orletsky H. Lawrence Hotchkiss Cheryl Meredith Lowry Evans W. Curry Robert E. Campbell

US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.
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THE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Vocational Education's mission is to increase the ability of diverse agencies, institutions, and organizations to solve educational problems relating to individual career planning, preparation, and progression. The Center fulfills its mission by:

Generating knowledge through research

- Developing educational programs and products
- Evaluating individual program needs and outcomes
- Installing educational programs and products
- Operating information systems and services
 - Conducting leadership development and training programs

FOREWORD

Our nation's educational institutions are continually seeking new approaches to improve the delivery of career planning assistance to their students. Sound career planning requires the integration of information from many sources, e.g., job requirements, training costs, and personal attributes. Too often, subtle but highly influential factors are overlooked in the traditional career planning process. Research has demonstrated that one of these is the role of "significant others." "Significant others" are those who have an important inflhence on the lives and career plans of young people, such as parents, public idols, teachers, courselors, and peers.

For the past several years, The Center, in cooperation with the Bureau of Occupational and Adult Education, U.S. Office of Education, and the Education and Work Group of the National Institute of Education, has pioneered in research on the influence of "significant others" in career planning, primarily focused on minority youth. The research has produced a series of monographs which are listed on the back cover. This particular monograph is unique in that it represents one of the first attempts to alert counselors and other professionals to the portential application of significant other research to every any practice. Hence, it suggests a new approach which we hope you will find useful.

The Center extends sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to the development of this monograph. These include, Ms. Carolyn Burkhardt, Ms. Sandra R. Orletsky (now with the Appalachia Educational Laboratory, Charleston, WV), Dr. H. Lawrence Hotchkiss, Ms. Cheryl M.

Lowry, Dr. Evans W. Curry (now with the Department of Sociology, Texas Technical University, Lubbock, Texas), and Dr. Robert E. Campbell.

Additional thanks are due to Ms. Nancy L. Robinson for her clerical preparation of the monograph.

Robert E. Taylor Director Center for Vocational Education

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INTRODUCTION

The term "significant others" refers to persons who have an important influence on the career plans of young people, e.g., parents, peers, and relatives. The major goal is to suggest strategies counselors can use to involve their students' significant others in high school career guidance programs. To teachers, counselors, and school administrators, this goal implies three main objectives. First, the handbook presents a brief, nontechnical summary of how significant others outside the school help to influence students' career plans. Also included is an emphasis on the overall societal context within which the process of significant other influence operates. Second, strategies that school personnel may use to incorporate significant others into the career guidance program are discussed. These discussions include methods for identifying individual students' significant others, and suggestions for using communication media for involving significant others in career planning. Third, an outline of the elements that may be included in a career planning file are suggested.

Counselors should bear in mind that the strategies suggested on the following pages have not all been field tested and that the research base from which the methods are suggested is limited. Few longitudinal studies have followed children through school to build a full picture of the developmental process. However, there is sufficient information to draw preliminary conclusions and to suggest implications for counselors. Those deciding to implement these strategies are advised to carefully monitor and evaluate them. The strategies

egies that appear here are not the only useful techniques for involving significant others in school career guidance programs, and it is hoped that this handbook will sensitize counselors to the concept of significant others so that they will be able to think of additional ways to take advantage of what people outside the school have to offer to the career planning process.

Why Involve Significant Others?

Significant others are involved in career planning for two major reasons. First, significant others play a crucial role in determining one's career fate. Second, significant others potentially represent a key linkage within the educational community. The following pages discuss each of these roles.

THE IMPACT OF SIGNIFICANT OTHERS ON CAREER PLANNING: CASE ILLUSTRATIONS

- As a young girl, Carrol developed a fascination for pottery making, painting, and simple sculpturing through school art classes and summer recreation programs. She hoped to attend college as an art major, but her mother felt she should get married and rear a family. Soon after high school, Carrol married her high school "steady," had two children by age 23, and was divorced two years later. Today, she struggles to support her son and daughter while attempting to earn a college degree in art education.
 - For as long as he could remember, Carl was set to become a doctor. By his junior year in high school his parents began to investigate the requirements for becoming a physician. Realizing that the competition is even more acute than they had formerly understood, Carl's mother and father began to encourage him to consider other occupations also. As a senior in high school, Carl now believes that several lines of work might prove interesting and useful, including veterinary science, nursing, college or secondary teaching in biology or chemistry, as well as physician. He still hopes to become a doctor, but is actively exploring a range of other options and keeping an open mind.
 - Jerry had never given much thought to the kind of work he wanted to do. After leaving high school he worked in several low-paying jobs for short times interspersed with periods of unemployment. Finally, Jerry went to work for his older brother, who was struggling to turn a profit running a pizza house. Gradually, Jerry began to help his brother with the bookkeeping. He found maintaining the financial records to be satisfying and discovered that he had a talent for keeping the records and recalling details of business transactions. Today Jerry and his brother are partners in the business. Jerry handles business dealings; his brother is the chef and oversees day-to-day operation of the business.
 - Barbara had always figured she would get married and have children after working as a secretary for a few years following high school. Her high school course work contained many courses in home economics and business. As a junior, Barbara began dating a boy with a compulsive interest in fixing up his old jalopy. Barbara began helping with the mechanical work, at first by hanging around and passing a few wrenches under the car, etc. She gradually became more involved in the work and developed a knack for diagnosing and fixing malfunctions. As a senior, Barbara decided to take a course in auto mechanics and is now considering trying to find work in auto repair after graduation.

Although these vignettes are fictional, the actions of Carrol's mother, Carl's parents, Jerry's brother, and Barbara's bottriend illustrate how people outside the school system exercise critical influence on the career decisions of young people. As highlighted by the stories, these decisions hold important consequences over several years for the individuals involved as well as for society in general. Yet, very often these decisions are made haphazardly, simply because those influencing students do not have adequate information about careers. While parents are most often the individuals selected by high school students as significant others, they are by no means the only persons to influence the amount of education, type of education, and occupational choice of youth. Significant others exercising in fluence on the career decisions of students may also be peers, neighbors, employers, and friends whom students respect and admire -- people who seldom have the career information so readily available to counselors. However, counselors are much less likely to be selected by students as their significant others.

Significant others, regardless of the inadequacy of their career planning information, continue to influence students. The counselor ought to consider better educating those who are influential. That effort should begin with a look at what research has to say about significant others.

What Research Tells Us* -

Research suggests that many young adults all over the country experience an extended period of floundering after leaving school and frequently select educational options and occupations without using all the information that is available. National surveys have shown that high school students do not feel that they receive adequate career guidance. When asked to indicate persons who have influenced their career plans, students typically list about ten individuals. Persons listed generally include parents, peers, relatives other than parents, famous personalities, teachers, and counselors are sometimes mentioned. Only a small proportion are teachers or counselors.

Major research findings about the role of significant others in career planning can be summarized as follows:

- The children of parents of high occupational and educational achievement tend to get more education and better jobs than do the children of parents of low achievement! This is true even when the children are of equal intellectual ability as indicated by IQ.
- * Parents' educational and occupational status operate most strongly to influence the level of education achieved by their children. The children's education, in turn, exercises a strong influence on the level of occupation they achieve.
 - Children from high achievement homes tend to be exposed to nonparental significant others such as brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, and peers who expect relatively high achievement from them.

^{*}State University, 1977; A.O. Haller and A. Portes, "Status Attainment Processes," Sociology of Education, Vol. 47, Winter, 1973; W. Sewell, A.O. Haller, and A. Portes, "The Educational and Early Occupational Attainment Process," The American Sociological Review, Vol. 34, February, 1969; W. Sewell, A.O. Haller, and G.W. Ohlendorf, "The Educational Company of the Education of th

- Parents with high occupational and educational achievement tend to expect more from their children.
- Children appear to adjust their occupational and educational plans to match the expectations of their parents, relatives, and friends. The occupational and educational plans of youth are more closely associated with parents occupational and educational expectations for the youth than with any other known factor.
- *.. Even for persons with the same level of education, parents' status continue to exercise some influence on how good a job their children obtain.

This evidence suggests that significant others are important because of the direct influence they exert on students' career plans and because of the indirect influence they exercise by passing parental achievement levels on to the children,

Family status (achievement) and IQ are two of the important variables shaping the career achievement of youth. Schools can do little to change a students' family situation, and it is difficult, at best, to affect IQ. However, creative counselors can work to help students develop career plans in a thoughtful and informed environment. Theory suggests that significant others exercise a critical influence on the development of the self-concept during youth. Theory also suggests that career choice is heavily dependent on one's self-concept. Thus, by involving significant others in career guidance programs, a strong potential for improving career decisions can be generated.

^{*}tional and Early Occupational Attainment Process: Replications and Revisions" The American Sociological Review, Vol. 35, December, 1970; and J. Woelfel and A.O. Haller, "Significant Others, The Self-Reflexive Act and the Attitude Formation Process," The American Sociological Review, Vol. 36, February, 1971.

SIGNLFICANT OTHER LINKAGES IN THE COMMUNITY

There are three interrelationships that appear to be important, or potentially important, in understanding and facilitating the career decisions of young people. The first relationship is the influence of significant others, particularly parents, on the career plans of youth. The second relationship is the relationship between the school and the community, particularly between the school and the parents of students. The third relationship is the relationship of the school and the student vis-a-vis formation of career plans. Specifically, that network in which a young person is potentially involved in making career decisions may be represented in Figure 1.

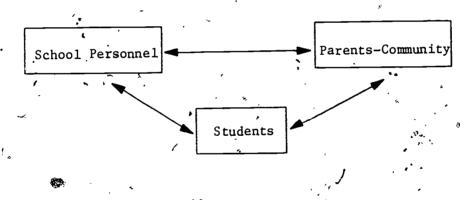


Figure 1. Schematic Representation of the Potential Communication Influence Network that Impacts on Young People's Career Decisions

Each of the two-headed arrows represents a communication linkage that helps to shape the career decisions of the youngster, either directly of indirectly. These linkages, or the lack of them, can affect career decisions.

At present, the only linkage that research shows is operating is the one from parent and community to student. The relationship between the school and the student, as it relates to career decisions, is gen-In addition, the relationship between parents and erally nonexistent. the school is often superficial, despite the fact that the school is one of the major sources of career information that parents could share with their children. The school is not currently able to effectively convey career-related information to the student, either (1) directly, through school personnel who may be significant others, or (2) indirectly, through dissemination of career information to significant others outside the school (e.g., parents, peers, relatives). Apparently, schools have the information and significant bthers have the influence, and there is little interface between the two. This situation is reresented/schematically in Figure 2.

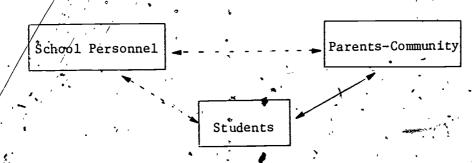


Figure 2. Schematic Representation of the Communication Influence
Network that Currently Impacts on Young People's Career
Decisions

Established communication

· Potential communication

What are the implications of this situation for career planning?

The research that has been conducted about significant others has not yet yielded information about what counselors can do to strengthen the linkage between school personnel and students, if, indeed, that is possible. But by pointing out how strong the linkage is between students and significant others (most often parents), the research indicates that perhaps counselors can best help students by increasing the career information available to those individuals already influencing them, thereby strenghtening the linkage between the school and the community.

How To Involve Significant Others

The remainder of this handbook suggests techniques to involve significant others in career guidance programs. The list of techniques suggested here is not exhaustive, but is intended to encourage each counselor to be as creative as possible in identifying opportunities to involve significant others in the career decisions of students. The techniques are divided into five major activities:

- 1. Publicize the importance of significant others
- 2. Publicize and disseminate career information
- 3. Use resource persons
- 4. Plan joint counseling sessions among counselors, students, and significant others, and
- 5. Develop student career planning files.

Unfortunately, some repetition among techniques is necessary since many of them are appropriate for use in more than one of the five activities. The chart on the next two pages outlines the techniques.

TECHNIQUES FOR INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

PUBLICIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

Use spot announcements on radio/TV
Use press releases
Make announcements at PTA and other organizations
Ask local employers to post announcements

PUBLICIZE AND DISSEMINATE CAREER INFORMATION

Send career information packets home with students Organize parent-teacher-significant other workshops Create a "career hot line" in the schools Use student newspaper Use yearbook advertisements Place periodic reminders in daily school announcements Hang posters
Develop employability skills with students and significant others

Personal references .
Interviewing for a job
Writing resumes
Adjusting to a new job
Looking for a job
Advancing in a job

List names and addresses of major professional and trade associations and other associations
List employment opportunities in the community and state
Investigate preparation requirements

Training and schooling Tools and equipment Legal requirements Unions

Identify financial assistance

Type of aid Repayment Requirements Application

(Continued on next page)



TECHNIQUES FOR INVOLVING SIGNIFICANT OTHERS (CONT.)

USE CARÉER RESOURCE PERSONS

Use interviews with employers and state and local officials within the community regarding career opportunities Organize speakers for classes related to careers

Employment opportunities
Preparation requirements
Financial assistance available

Assign students to interview significant others about working conditions, educational experience, etc.

PLAN JOINT CAREER COUNSELING SESSIONS AMONG COUNSELORS, STUDENTS. AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

Use games and simulations relevant to career planning.

Phi Delta Kappa Needs Assessment game
Los Angeles YWCA Vocational Readiness game
When I Grow Up I Want to be Married game

Organize theme workshops for significant others and students

Aptitudes and interests .

Employment opportunities

Preparation requirements

Financial assistance available

Form career clubs composed of students

DEVELOP STUDENT CAREER PLANNING FILES

Compile student career planning files

Aptitude and interest inventories Employment opportunities Prepareation requirements

Complete "How Do I Feel About My Career" questions

PUBLICIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

The first requirement for gaining cooperation from significant others is to publicize the importance of those individuals (especially parents) in the career planning of students. Several techniques may be used, including:

- Spot announcements on radio and TV. Since federal regulations require radio and television stations to broadcast a certain number of public service announcements, access to radio and TV time should be relatively simple.
- ** Newspaper copy. Provide brief information material to local newspapers. (For a thorough discussion of how to use newspaper, radio, and TV, see reference 8.)
- * Make announcements in existing school-community organizations such as PTA.
- * Ask local employers to make announcements or distribute fliers to their employees. Most businesses are eager to perform some public services in order to maintain a favorable image. Since career planning is so closely related to future jobs, employers have an added incentive to cooperate.



PUBLICIZE AND DISSEMINATE CAREER INFORMATION

One of the most important aspects of involving significant others in career guidance is to supply them information about educational opportunities, scholarships, and job conditions that they can pass on to students. It is not enough to keep the information on file; it must be placed within easy access of significant others. Some techniques that may help to place information in the hands of significant others are listed below:

- * Send career information packets home with students.
- Organize parent-teacher-significant other workshops:

 The main purpose of the workshops would be to explore what information is needed and provide needed data to significant others.
 - Personal references. Some students do not know that often they should have personal references in order to complete applications. Students should ask the persons they would like to use as references before they give their names to an employer.
 - -- Interviewing for a job. Role playing this activity with peers and/or significant others is helpful for some students.
 - --- Writing resumes. Resume writing is difficult for students since they often have little or no work experience. Students can learn to write about their interests and volunteer activities in such a way that can help an employer evaluate them. Significant others can be helpful in recalling work experiences with them and asking questions about jobrelated activities.
 - -- Adjusting to a new job. This can be easier if significant others discuss adjustments they and fellow workers have made.

Create a "career hot line" in the school. A separate telephone number could ring in a counselor's office. The counselor should have special knowledge of career planning data, have access to reference materials, and act as a resource person.

- Publish articles in your student newspaper. Current career activities, materials, and new information of interest to students probing career decisions should be identified.
 - Use yearbook advertisements. Ads from local firms, technical schools, colleges, and placement services could be encouraged. Significant others might place ads from their firms.
 - Include career information periodically as a part of daily announcements. Community activities related to career planning could be publicized to students.
 - Hang posters. These pesters can be used to announce career events, career club meetings, films, job openings, and career activities.
 - Develop employability skills with students and significant others. Some students will already have some work experience from part-time jobs, but all can benefit from learning more about the activities related to finding a job and learning how best to present themselves during the interviews. Significant others have already mastered many of these skills and can be helpful and supportive while students are learning. The following activities, whenever possible, should be worked on with the significant others:
 - Looking for a job. Most high school students will be entering the job market within the relatively near future. Therefore, they need to consider how to get their first job in occupations they have been considering. Can one apply directly to an employer? Will a union control job entrance?

 Will registration with employment agencies be of help? Must one save to acquire capital to open a business?
 - Advancing in a job. Young people often fail to consider opportunities for advancement when making job choices. It will be helpful to find out about the levels of pay and prestige of the occupations being considered. How long does it take to advance between the various levels? What experience is required for each advancement? What additional training might be required? Also, what related occupations could provide an opportunity for advancement? Significant others may be willing to discuss the opportunities for, and barriers to, their own advancement.

List names and addresses of major professional and trade associations and other associations. It would be useful to compile a list of places where employment of the type desired can be found. (For discussion of job entrance, see reference 26.) Encourage students to discuss this with significant others, especially when the significant other works at the same occupation in which the student is interested.

List employment opportunities. It is essential to estimate employment opportunities in jobs that a student is considering. Are workers in demand today? Give evidence. Is employment expected to increase or decrease? Much or little? Why? The figures are available from The Job Information Service, organized and developed by the U.S. Employment Service in 1970 (reference 28). This source provides school counselors with up-to-date labor market data on their communities and supplies current listings of job openings. The information, when shared with significant others, provides another area of communication between the student and the significant other.

Investigate preparation requirements.

- Training and schooling. A number of important questions about training and schooling arise. How much and what kind of preparation is required to meet legal requirements and employers' standards? What additional training would be desirable but not required? How long does the required training take? \ What costs can be expected? Is there any financial assistance avail able? What are the requirements necessary to receive financial aid? Where can one get a list of approved schools and the entrance requirements of the schools? What kind of high school or college program should precede entrance into a specialized school? What subjects should be chosen? What provisions, if any, are made for apprenticeship or any other training on the job? Is experience of any kind a prerequisite for entrance? If so, describe. (For some discussion of job qualifications, see reference 24.)
 - -- Tools and equipment. Is it necessary for the worker to buy his/her own equipment as in the case of a dentist, mechanic, or photographer?

 If so, what is the average cost?:

- -- <u>Legal requirements</u>. Is there a license or certificate, required such as those for lawyers, dental assistants, and electricians? Where and how does one find out about these requirements?
- dominant? If there is a union, what are the requirements for entrance? Are there initiation fees or dues? If so, what is the average cost per year? Does the union limit the number of persons admitted? Does the union affect the apprenticeship programs? If so, how? Many significant others will have firsthand experience about these concerns and should be invited to speak if a convenient time can be arranged.

Identifying financial assistance. It is important that students and significant others become fully aware of available financial assistance. There are few students with ability to continue their job preparation who could not get financial help, but there are still many who are not aware of the opportunities. Students and significant others should compile a list of all sources of financial aid available.

- -- Type of aid. A number of types of financial aid are available, including scholarships, loans, work/study programs, and on-the-job training. The type of aid that might be of interest to an individual student will depend on that student's educational and occupational expectations, but no option should be eliminated too early.
- -- Repayment. If the financial assistance comes in the form of a loan, it is important to inquire about interest rates, repayment schedules, and consequences of late payment or default.

 Be sure to find out what happens in case of injury or death to the recipient.
- -- Requirements. Eligibility requirements should be carefully checked. Be sure to inquire about, possible exceptions to the official requirements.
- Application. Note when and how to apply for the money. School personnel can be helpful at this point, since applications are not only very confusing, but also very personal. Parents often need to be convinced that the information will be held in confidence, since they are likely to be reluctant to reveal some aspects of their financial status.

LUSE CAREER RESOURCE PERSONS

Persons in the community who are willing to spend time speaking to students, during a career day or as speakers for classes, can present valuable career information to the students. These speakers have upto-date, firsthand experience that students should hear about but which counselors may not have. Students can often identify a significant other in their lives who would be interested in sharing information with an entire class, or students might request a personal interview and report the results to the class. Resource persons can be helpful with many of the suggested topics listed on pages 15 to 18.



PLAN JOINT CAREER COUNSELING SESSIONS AMONG COUNSELORS, STUDENTS, AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

This technique in itself is often considered appropriate for students preparing to enter high school, but is seldom used beyond that point. There are career games and simulations relevant to career planning that can be used effectively in these joint sessions. For instance, Phi Delta Kappa has completed a goal attainment game, entitled the Delta Kappa Needs Assessment (20), which can be used effectively with groups. The game uses markers and the students weigh their goals and values and then discuss them.

The California Advisory Commission on the Status of Women has designed a role playing game for adolescent girls called When I Grow Up I Want To Be Married (2). The purposes of the game are: (1) to give the players a greater awareness of the realities of women's lives, e.g., that most will have a family and a career; (2) to give the students an opportunity to deal with the effects of chance and its irreversible effects on their lives; and (3) to motivate students to adjust their present plans to avoid possible problems. Materials called a Vocational Readiness Program (29) have been designed jointly by the YWCA of Los Angeles, California, the U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, and the California Advisory Commission on the Status of Women. This program has been used in the public schools since 1971 and is similar in a many ways to the When I Grow Up I Want To Be Mapried game. Both the game and the program have been designed for high school girls, although boys may also benefit from exposure to the materials. Minorities and

women may have needs that are different from White males who have known all their lives that they could select just about any occupation and work at it for the rest of their lives. Many high school women still make only very tentative career plans as they wait for marriage and a family. Convincing these students that they, too, can plan their work—lives may be one of the greatest contributions the counselor can make.

In addition to games and simulations used in joint sessions, real student problems and concerns could be used as a basis for workshops.

The topics mentioned on pages 29 to 32 can also be presented and discussed in these joint sessions.

Career clubs composed of students can be used to role play decisions and are especially helpful for those students who seem not to get much support and encouragement from their parents. Although research demonstrates the great influence of parents in both educational expectation and occupational achievement, some students do not receive much encouragement from their parents, while others receive pressure from parents who insist on actually making career decisions for their children. It would be helpful if a creative counselor could locate, a different significant other for students who are ignored by their parents or whose parents' influence is working at cross purposes to the student's skills and values.

DEVELOP STUDENT CAREER PLANNING FILES

A <u>Career Planning File</u> is another method of collecting necessary, helpful information such as that gleaned from interviews, guest speakers, tests, and resource persons. The resumes suggested earlier (on page 15) should also be in the file. The file information can be discussed with the significant other and the counselor as it is collected or when the entire set of forms is completed. It should be readily available to both the student and the significant other, if the student consents. The Appendix of this handbook contains a set of example items students can respond to that would be appropriate for inclusion in the file.

Additionally, a set of open-ended questions such as "How Do I'

Feel About My Career Plans?" (see Appendix) can help bring out students'

feelings about themselves as it relates to career planning. The reader

is free to modify these questions as needed.



SUMMARY

Involving significant others in a school's guidance program is a challenging and necessary process. It is necessary because research shows that it is usually significant others outside the school who most influence students' career plans, although such persess may not have adequate career information to share. It is challenging because very little attention has been paid to finding ways to involve significant others in a formal guidance program, to take advantage of their influence with students while making sure that the information they are sharing is current and of sufficient scope.

The authors of this handbook have tried to familiarize counselors with the concept of significant others and their relationships to the career planning process. The techniques included are not expected to be appropriate in every school with every student. Individual counselors will select those techniques that are most appropriate for their time and place. They will also be able to decide which techniques will meet with the most enthusiastic support from significant others.

In involving significant others, the emphasis should be on the flow of information to students from someone they respect and trust. Students need as much support as possible as they take the risks involved in making even tentative career decisions. While those decisions are only tentative, they help students move toward what they want from life. You and the significant others have a unique opportunity to help them make their lives satisfying to themselves and society.

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APPENDIX.

The appendix contains two techniques for helping students develop Career Planning Files as described on page 22. The first is a career planning information outline, and the second is an open-ended attitudinal questionnaire entitled, "How Do I Feel About My Career Plans?"

CAREER PLANNING INFORMATION

Aptitudes and Interests

List here any aptitudes in which you must be better than average in order to do satisfactory work in the occupation you are considering, and/or aptitudes necessary to complete job training (for example, mechanical aptitude, clerical aptitude, scholastic aptitude, finger dexterity, pitch discrimination, reaction time).

List here the names of any tests you have taken to measure these aptitudes, the results of the tests, and any other evidence of the aptitudes you possess.

Employment Opportunities

List here information about trends in employment opportunities. Reliable facts may be difficult to acquire, but an effort should be made, nevertheless. List here your reaction to the implications of the facts you have compiled.

List today's demand for workers.



Is employment in the occupation you are considering expected to increase or decrease in your community? List places where this kind of employment can be located. Earnings List here how much money you think you could earn in the occupation. Be sure this figure is based on system-atically collected data: First year. After five years \$ Peak earnings \$ Physical Requirements List here how much money you think you would have to earn in order to feel that you were doing about as well as you have a right to expect. First year. After five years \$ Peak earnings \$ Peak earnings \$ List here how much money you think you would have to earn in order to feel that you were doing about as well as you have a right to expect. First year \$ After five years \$ Peak earnings \$ List here any of these requirements that you must meet in order to enter the occupation for example, height, weight, 20/20 vision, freedom from color blindness).		•	•
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Tentative Decision.

Go back to the preceding list and note the most important advantages and disadvantages of the job being considered. Then think about the choice and pretend that a decision must be made right away. Would you enter this occupation? There is no need to feel bound by a tentative decision, but the process of constructing the decision can be useful in helping to develop carefully thought-out career planning:



The ideas in this section are drawn from Robert Hoppock, Occupational Information, 3rd ed., New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1967.

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT MY CAREER PLANS?

This activity is planned to help you think about yourself and your career. There are no wrong answers. Simply write the first thought that comes to mind after each phrase. After completing this activity, share your feelings with your parents, relatives, counselors, and/or friends.

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